

All-Cause Emergency Department (ED) Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Narrative Specifications for Public Comment

- **Measure Concept:** This measure evaluates the number of all-cause ED visits per 1,000 participant months among Medicaid participants aged 18 years and older with at least 10 months of enrollment.
- **Measure Interpretation:** Higher values (those toward the high end of the percentile distribution) may indicate overuse of the ED for Medicaid participants and may indicate that disparities in access to treatment exist for Medicaid participants.
- **Initial Population:**¹ For the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure, the initial population includes Medicaid participants aged 18 years and older with at least 10 months of enrollment within a one-year window of claims data. Individuals are included once in the measure's initial population.
- **Numerator:**² For the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure, the numerator consists of the ED visits during the measurement year that did not result in an inpatient or observation stay.
- **Denominator:**³ For the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure, the denominator includes the number of participant months for Medicaid-enrolled individuals, aged 18 years and older, with at least 10 months of enrollment.
- **Denominator Exclusions:**⁴ There are no exclusions for the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure.

¹ The initial population refers to all individuals evaluated by a specific measure. These participants share a common set of characteristics that make them eligible for inclusion in the measure, including having a specific procedure, being of a certain age, or having some other commonality.

² A measurement of the process or outcome expected for each patient, procedure, or other unit of measurement defined in the denominator.

³ The denominator can be the same as the initial population or include a subset of the initial population. The denominator contains all the individuals or procedures assigned to each accountable entity (such as a physician, facility, or state) during the measurement period.

⁴ Denominator exclusions are used to identify participants who should be removed from the initial population before determining if the numerator criteria are met because the measured process or outcome should not apply to them.